Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 063335

46
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:SSOBER:MMK
APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY
NEA:ALATHERTON
S/S:MR. ORTIZ
---------- 032473
O 161559Z MAR 76 ZFF6
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 063335

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, JO, SA

SUBJECT: JORDAN-HAWK FINANCING -- KING HUSSEIN'S MEETING WITH THE SHAH

REF: AMMAN 1378 (NOTAL)

1. WE UNDERSTAND KING HUSSEIN IS SCHEDULED TO STOP OFF TO SEE THE SHAH ON MARCH 17 ON THE WAY HOME FROM HIS CURRENT FAR EAST TRIP. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR YOU TO BRING TO THE SHAH'S ATTENTION, BEFORE HIS TALK WITH HUSSEIN, CURRENT STATUS OF PROBLEM ON FINANCING THE HAWK MISSILES WE HAVE PROMISED TO SUPPLY TO JORDAN. THIS PROBLEM HAS MAJOR IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR RELATIONS WITH JORDAN AND THE SHAH MAY FIND THAT IT LOOMS LARGE IN HUSSEIN'S MIND.

2. ESSENTIAL BACKGROUND IS THAT WE AGREED LAST FALL TO
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 063335

SUPPLY 14 BATTALIONS OF IMPROVED HAWKS TO JORDAN, TOGETHER

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

WITH 100 VULCAN AA GUNS TO MAKE UP A CREDIBLE AIR DEFENSE PACKAGE. LACK OF AIR DEFENSE HAS BEEN SEEN BY THE JORDANIANS AS THEIR MAJOR MILITARY DEFICIENCY. OUR PROPOSAL TO SUPPLY THE HAWKS TO JORDAN RAN INTO CONSIDERABLE OPPOSITION ON THE HILL AND DEAL WAS PERMITTED TO

GO THROUGH ONLY AFTER SENIOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS HAD MOUNTED MAJOR EFFORT TO OVERCOME CONGRESSIONAL RESISTANCE. SINCE THE JORDANIANS LACKED THE NECESSARY FUNDS THEMSELVES AND OUR OWN AID RESOURCES WERE ALMOST TOTALLY COMMITTED TO OTHER PURPOSES FOR JORDAN, HUSSEIN HAD SOUGHT HELP FROM THE SAUDIS AND THE SAG HAD AGREED TO FINANCE THE HAWK PURCHASE. LETTERS OF OFFER WERE SUBSEQUENTLY SIGNED, CONSTITUTING FIRM CONTRACT ON SUPPLY OF THE 14 BATTALIONS OF MISSILES PLUS VULCANS AND VARIETY OF ESSENTIAL SUPPORT ELEMENTS TO MAKE UP AN EFFECTIVE PACKAGE.

3. PROBLEM HAS ARISEN ON THE TOTAL COST OF THE PACKAGE. SAG APPEARS TO HAVE RECEIVED IMPRESSION THAT COST WOULD AMOUNT TO SOME DOLS 300 MILLION, A FIGURE WHICH WAS MENTIONED INFORMALLY AS BASIC HARDWARE COSTS IN EARLIER STAGES OF DISCUSSION OF THE PACKAGE BUT WHICH DID NOT TAKE ACCOUNT OF SOFTWARE NEEDS. THE ACTUAL COST OF THE OVERALL PACKAGE COVERED BY SIGNED LETTERS OF OFFER IS NOT FAR BELOW DOLS 800 MILLION, WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE PAID OVER A PERIOD OF SEVERAL YEARS. THE SAG HAS BALKED AT PAYING THIS LATTER AMOUNT, AND HAS SENT HUSSEIN WORD THAT IT WOULD STAND ON ITS PROMISE OF DOLS 300 MILLION AND NO MORE. HUSSEIN'S RESPONSE, CONVEYED TO US BEFORE HE LEFT ON THE FAR EAST TRIP, WAS THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL FOR HIM TO HAVE AN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM, AND SINCE HE DID NOT HAVE THE MEANS FOR PAYING FOR THE SYSTEM CONTRACTED WITH US, HE WOULD HAVE TO LOOK ELSEWHERE. WE UNDERSTAND FROM GOJ PRIMIN RIFAI THAT HUSSEIN PLANNED TO TURN TO MOSCOW AND ACCEPT A STANDING SOVIET OFFER OF ARMS ASSISTANCE. SPECIFICALLY, WE WERE TOLD THAT JORDAN WISHED TO APPLY THE DOLS 300 MILLION PROMISED BY SAUDI ARABIA TO COVER THE COST OF AN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM TO BE PROCURED FROM THE SOVIETS.

SECRET

SECRET

4. GOJ SEEMS TO HAVE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THE SAUDIS WOULD BE WILLING TO LET THEIR DOLS 300 MILLION BE APPLIED TOWARDS A SOVIET PURCHASE, BUT FROM OUR TALKS WITH THE SAUDIS IT IS NOT AT ALL CLEAR THAT THIS IS SO. WE BELIEVE THE SAG WOULD TAKE A QUITE DIM VIEW OF HUSSEIN'S TURNING TO MOSCOW FOR ANYTHING SO CRITICAL AS AN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

5. AFTER DRAWING ON THE ABOVE BACKGROUND, YOU SHOULD INFORM THE SHAH THAT WE TOO SEE SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS IN JORDAN'S STRIKING UP AN ARMS-SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOVIETS. THIS WOULD BRING THEM INTO A COUNTRY WHERE THEY HAVE NOT HITHERTO BEEN PRESENT IN ANY IMPORTANT WAY.

THE INTRODUCTION OF SOVIET-SUPPLIED MISSILES WOULD INEVITABLY BE A MATTER OF GREAT CONCERN TO THE ISRAELIS. BEYOND THAT, IT WOULD BE SEEN WIDELY AS A MAJOR SETBACK FOR THE US AND A POLITICAL VICTORY FOR THE USSR, WITH A VERY SERIOUS RISK OF UPSETTING THE DELICATE POLITICAL EQUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST WITH ALL THAT THAT MAY PORTEND FOR THE PEACEMAKING PROCESS.

6. YOU SHOULD ALSO INFORM THE SHAH THAT WE HAVE THIS MATTER UNDER URGENT REVIEW AND PLAN TO BE DISCUSSING IT AGAIN VERY SHORTLY WITH BOTH KING HUSSEIN AND THE SAG. WE WISHED AT THIS POINT INFORM HIM IN CONFIDENCE OF WHERE THE MATTER STANDS.IF THE SUBJECT COMES UP IN HIS TALK WITH HUSSEIN, ASSUMING HE SHARES OUR BASIC ANALYSIS OF THE PROBLEM, WE HOPE THE SHAH WILL TELL HUSSEIN OF HIS OWN CONCERNS AND THE DANGERS OF JORDAN'S TURNING TO THE SOVIETS FOR SOMETHING AS SIGNIFICANT AS A MISSILE AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM. IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL, FURTHERMORE, IF THE SHAH FELT HE COULD GO SO FAR AS TO COUNSEL HUSSEIN TO PERSIST IN TRYING TO WORK SOMETHING OUT WITH THE US AND THE SAG ON THIS ISSUE. KISSINGER

SECRET

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, AIR DEFENSE, FINANCE, CHIEFS OF STATE MEETINGS, MISSILES, BRIEFING MATERIALS, CAT-C
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE063335
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SSOBER:MMK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P840086-0338
From: STATE NEA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760355/aaaabwko.tel
Line Count: 143
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 76 AMMAN 1378
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 MAY 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <31 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JORDAN-HAWK FINANCING--KING HUSSEIN'S MEETING WITH THE SHAH
TAGS: MASS, PFOR, JO, SA, IR, UR, US, (HUSSEIN I), (PAHLAVI, MOHAMMED REZA)
To: TEHRAN AMMAN JIDDA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006